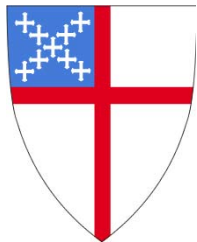


The Pruden Parish Press

January 2012

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The Pruden Parish Press

News & Information for Parishioners and Friends of Emmanuel

Published bi-monthly (except July) in September, November, January, March and May

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Editor & Publisher

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Annual Meeting Elects Coles and Simpson to Vestry

By Susan Paynter

The Emmanuel Annual Meeting was held after services on Sunday, December 11. Agenda items included the treasurer's report, an update on search committee efforts, vestry elections and the Christmas outreach program.

Before the order of business, there was a covered-dish luncheon with roast turkey provided by Jayne DePaulo and sides, desserts and beverages contributed by everyone else. Beth Coles arranged a lovely winter camellia centerpiece for each table.

Treasurer John Geyer announced that Emmanuel is on sound financial footing. He recommended the church start an outreach fund so the Outreach Committee can properly plan effective programs.

John attributed the good financial condition to two factors: investments that have out-performed the S&P 500 and the money saved by not having a rector to pay -- which brings

us to the search committee efforts.

Richard Camp and Vic Millner reported that they were informed by the diocese of four possible candi-

dates for the position of Emmanuel Rector. Of those four, one is still available and appears to be interested in the position. Updates were promised.

Some leadership changes were also part of the Annual Meeting. John Geyer announced that, after ten years, he is stepping down as Treasurer. He is also stepping down as a reader during worship services. In explanation he suggested that others would enjoy the opportunity to serve as he has done. Undoubtedly, John has everyone's thanks for many years of a job well done!

Of course, the vestry elections brought about more leadership changes. As Jayne dePaulo and Ronald Irby both completed their vestry



Walter Coles, Sr. and Bill Simpson

terms, church members elected new vestry members. That vote resulted in Walter Coles and Bill Simpson being chosen to replace dePaulo and Irby.

Sharon Taylor concluded the meeting agenda with Emmanuel's Oak Grove Christmas Outreach program.

Sharon had created a Christmas tree covered with angels. Each angel represented a resident at Oak Grove Residential Care, and on the back of each angel was a gift request tailored to that resident.

Emmanuel members and non-members selected angels for outreach gift-giving and later brought their wrapped presents back for distribution to grateful recipients.

Vestry Notes from the Senior Warden



As the calendar year ended, our Christian year began with the season of Advent. The term Advent means the coming of Christ into the world and, hopefully, into our individual lives and the greater Church community.

By the time this article goes to press, the Christmas Season will have been the focus of our interest and participation, and the annual greening of the Church will have occurred.

My thanks to all who brought greenery, poinsettias, and labored so diligently; most especially to Sharon Taylor who for years has been the reminder-organizer-chief laborer for this special event.

Welcome to the new Vestry members, Walter Coles and Bill Simpson. Also, I extend sincere and deep thanks to Ron Irby and Jayne DePaulo whose terms of service on the Vestry have expired.

I wish all of you, and through you our Parish, a New Year filled with promise, prosperity and peace.

As we begin the calendar year 2012, the formidable task of locating a priest remains unfulfilled. Our status as a small parish in a small town and with limited resources creates an up front problem for which there is no immediate resolution.

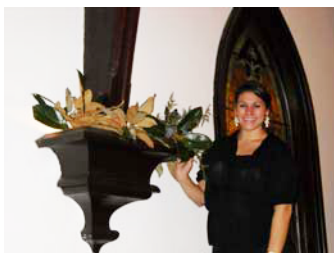
However, Richard Camp, Chair of the Search Committee, and the Vestry are continuing in earnest to find and attract a suitable candidate. Several will have been interviewed by telephone by the time this report is published.

In closing, I wish all of you, and through you our Parish, a New Year filled with promise, prosperity and peace.

Sincerely,

H. Victor Millner, Jr.
Senior Warden

Greening of the Church - On Wednesday evening, December 21, the Emmanuel Elves slipped in for the Greening of the Church. These photos show them hard at work.



The Elves

(left to right, top to bottom):

Betty, Joe, John, Susan, Martha Jane, Martha, Mary Catherine, Morgan, the Youngest Elves, and the Fruits of their Labor

Emmanuel Calendar Notes for January - March 2012

The schedule of services and other parish events summarized below are as of the date of publication. Changes or additional details will be published in the Sunday service bulletins, by special announcement and / or on the parish web site at www.emmanuelchatham.org. The complete calendars are also available on the web site.

RECURRING EVENTS

Sundays

11:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II - 2nd & 4th Sundays
The Reverend J.W. Mathieson, Celebrant

Morning Prayer - 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays

12:00 pm Coffee Hour
In the Parish Hall following the Service

Wednesdays

6:00 pm Choir Practice
All parishioners are invited to participate.

1st Thursday of each month

2:00 pm The Briar Ridge Ramblers perform at
Oak Grove Residential Home.
Social Hour sponsored by Emmanuel
These elders would welcome *your* cheer!

4th Sunday of each month

12:30 pm Vestry Meeting - Parish Hall Conf. Room

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, January 8

3:30 pm Chatham Concert Series -
Bill Parrish Jr., Principal Oboist, Roanoke
Symphony, Claudia Jones Patterson, piano,
and the Saturn String Ensemble

Friday, February 3

7:00 pm Chatham Concert Series-
English Vocal Music from Butterworth to the
Beatles featuring Baritone David Castonguay
with the Saturn String Ensemble

Friday, March 9

7:00 pm Chatham Concert Series-
A St. Patrick's Day Prelude featuring organist
Kenyon Scott and bagpiper William Plail

Christmas Night at Emmanuel

By Mark dePaulo

Some say that Emmanuel has never been more beautiful than this Christmas Eve. The flowers were rich, and large, and abundant, and the candles burned softly, and the Christmas hymns rang clear, and did I mention that the gang was very nearly all there?

Fifty-seven (57) good and true Episcopalians gathered on His birthday in this the Season of Light! Jim spun a metaphor from everyday life, which compared the darkness of prison to the darkness of a soul absent His redeeming grace. You can always count on Jim to make it real!

And let it be remembered that Kenyon returned and returned with passion! Let's just say that Virgil Fox doesn't have much on

our guy! And you know that Sharon, our solo choir soprano, accompanied Kenyon, and Ashby accompanied us all. And let us not forget all the children and grandchildren who returned to celebrate Emmanuel ("God is With Us"). It's been a long time since we had four, yes four, communion sets.

And after Midnight Mass there was much revelry (yes the egg-nog was "nogged") in the parish hall. Gathered there were men and women of good will and even better spirits! Of course it didn't hurt that the table was set with the most scrumptious dishes and desserts, or that we were blessed with so many fabulous cooks!

So on we went through the earliest of Christmas morning cheering

on Santa and all his reindeer when finally, having witnessed Rudolf's red beacon flash by (he seems to have added a siren of late.); and content that Donner, Comet, and Blixen had passed overhead, our Christmas Party parted as each went merrily to their respective abodes with dreams of mistletoe and Ho-Ho-Ho!



Chatham Concert Series Continues at Emmanuel

By Susan Paynter

The November and December concerts were great successes, and the upcoming January concert promises to be the same.

On November 11, Emmanuel hosted a fascinating concert headlined by **Classical Guitarist Stanley Alexandrowicz** who played not only his traditional classical guitar but also a rare double-necked 19th century guitar.

Dr. Alexandrowicz treated the substantial audience to Romantic and Baroque European music and ended with a 20th century piece, "Diario - Omaggio a Che Guevara," at the conclusion of which he turned his guitar into a tympanic instrument with a musical rendering of the final heartbeats of Guevara, the Argentine revolutionary.

About 20 members of the audience accepted the guitarist's offer to stay after the program to discuss the music. The Guevara piece, by Vaclav Kucera, was what seemed to be of greatest interest. Alexandrowicz mentioned that it can be a controversial item when audiences confuse music with politics, but that didn't seem to be an issue with this audience.

One woman was thrilled that, for the first time, she was able to "get"



Mezzo-Soprano Katarzyna Sadej and the Rainier Trio - Left to right, Kevin Matheson, Brenda Wittwer, Ms. Sadej, and Bryan Matheson

a non-pop composition. A cameo appearance by talented Chatham guitar student, Mark Percario, was also on the program.

The December 4 concert featuring Canadian **Mezzo-Soprano Katarzyna Sadej** played to a full house. Joining Ms. Sadej were the violin, viola and piano of the Rainier Trio and a host of local string-instrument students.

Falling on the fourth day of the Christmas in Chatham festivities, the program was varied but heavy on seasonal music from Johannes Brahms to Vaughan Williams. The student musicians provided backup for the five Christmas carols that concluded the program with an audience sing-along.

The New Year program, to be held at 3:30 on Sunday, January 8, will hold special significance for the Emmanuel family. The concert will feature the **Roanoke Symphony Orchestra's Principal Oboist, Bill Parrish, Jr.**

The senior Bill Parrish was once Emmanuel's rector and is still remembered fondly by many parishioners. Mr. Parrish will treat us to "Gabriel's Oboe."

Originally written for the 1986 movie, *The Missionary*, "Gabriel's Oboe" has become wildly popular and is played regularly around the world. Joining Mr. Parrish on the program will be the ever-popular Saturn String Ensemble.

Annual Meeting and Luncheon Photos



Bishop Hollerith's Christmas Message



(Transcript of Bishop Hollerith's 2011 Christmas video message)

First of all I want to take the opportunity to wish everyone in Southern Virginia a blessed Christmas and new year.

This time of year I find myself reflecting particularly on that wonderful story about Mary that we heard on the fourth Sunday of Advent in which the Angel Gabriel visits Mary to, basically, offer her a new vocation. And Mary's unbelievable courage in saying "Yes" to that incredible announcement that she would be the mother of our Lord.

And to think what that "Yes" took – yes, as Barbara Brown Taylor says, to a plan for your life that you did not choose, to agree to something you don't know how to do, and to do it for reasons you don't fully understand. It was, I think, a remarkable "Yes" and something really worth reflecting on in our own lives.

The other day I was watching an interview on a television talk show and they were interviewing a young artist. He was talking about his personal life and how things had radically changed for him recently.

He explained that he had been a very successful artist, in his younger years in particular, and had run with the rich and famous and lived opulently and really was a jet-setter for all intents and purposes.

He eventually met a wonderful, beautiful woman and married

her. He said that from the very get-go that he had explained to his wife that he thought that, no matter what, the one thing that he really did not want to do in life was have children. So they agreed they would never have children because it would interfere with his lifestyle.

As they say, if you want to see that God has a sense of humor, then tell him your plans. Because in their first year of marriage, she discovered that she was pregnant and they were going to have a baby. He was very upset about it, but out of love for her – and she wanted the child – he agreed. So for the next nine months he lived in fear and trembling of the fact that his wonderful lifestyle of a free spirit artist and opulence would come to a crashing end.

Well, then the baby was born, and lo and behold, the first time he set eyes on the baby he fell absolutely in love with her – she was a baby girl. In fact, he suddenly had this radical conversion to parenthood.

He reported now that he couldn't imagine life apart from this wonderful gift of a child he so deeply loved, and that all those things he had thought were so important in the past had been given up for something so much better.

I think that's a wonderful story and I think **it's a great analogy for how God works in our lives,** by giving us these gifts that we never imagined we would have or receive. God gives us things that are so much better than anything we could even imagine or conjure up on our own.

When all is said and done, Christmas is not just about giving

Prayer List

Pray for the sick and the shut-ins:

- * Alan Arey
- * Louis DePaulo
- * Nancy Jones Hayes
- * Allene Hunt
- * Marvin Mullis
- * Shannon & Ed Olivarez
- * Alice Overbey
- * Catherine Overbey
- * David Brochu
- * Dorothy Roop
- * Dr. John Ruef
- * Mary Grymes
- * Rosemary Nichols
- * Gloria Thompson
- * Jane Ruef
- * West Mathieson
- * Liz Hairston



Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve thy sick servants, and give thy power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in thy loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

gifts; it's also about us receiving the powerful gift of the incarnation. That takes trust, something that we're not always willing to do. But something that, if we do, brings us to new, amazing possibilities.

This holy season, I hope and pray that all of us in the Diocese of Southern Virginia, in our various parishes and places, will find some special moment in our lives to say "Yes" to the incarnation and to say "Yes" to the new and wonderful life-giving possibilities that God brings us in his son, Jesus Christ.

May you all have a blessed Christmas.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

in the Diocese of Southern Virginia

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H. Victor Millner, Jr., Senior Warden

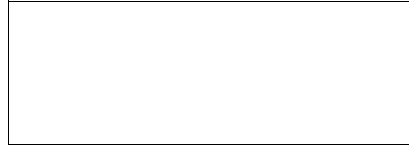
The Rev. J. W. Mathieson, Supply Priest

Visit Emmanuel on the World Wide Web

at www.emmanuelchatham.org.

Please send stories, article suggestions or comments to **Susan Paynter** or **Wayne Wilson** or email them to emmanuelchatham@gmail.com.

The article submission deadline for the March issue is **February 15th**.



A Happy New Year to All!

from the dePaulo family's annual New Year's Brunch on January 1st

